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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of
James R. Geschwindt et al
Serial No.: 10/736,945
Filed: December 15, 2003
Title: Permeable Inlet Fuel Gas Distributor for Fuel Cells

Docket No.: C-2950
Art Unit: 1795
Examiner: Laios, Maria J.

I hereby certify that this correspondance is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. 571-273-8300) on January 15, 2010.
Barbara Cecere Barbara Cecere

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

1-3. This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated December 23, 2009. Claims 1-14 are pending; claims 3, 5-8 and 10 are withdrawn; and claims 1, 2, 4, 9 and 11-14 are present for consideration.

4. Claims 2, 4, 9 and 12 are rejected as anticipated by Kneidel. The problem is the meaning of the word "fuel"; as shown in the right center of Fig. 2 of Kneidel, the gas entering the structure is *"unreformed mixture of natural gas and steam"*, at the arrow 14. In column 3, about lines 42-46, *"the gas 14 (an unreformed mixture of natural gas and steam) enters from the right...."*

In the present specification, at page 4, line 24 et seq., it is clear that "The fuel inlet manifold 12 provides fuel to all of the fuel cells 13." The fuel that is provided to the fuel cells is provided from a fuel supply pipe 11 to a compact inlet fuel distributor 10, and thence to a fuel inlet manifold 12, and thence "to all of the fuel cells 13".

Lines 5-9 of claim 2 requires "a fuel gas inlet manifold (12, 53, 63) in fluid communication with all of said fuel flow field inlets; and an inlet fuel gas distributor having a fuel inlet chamber (10, 53, 62) interconnected with said fuel supply pipe and including a permeable baffle (39, 54,